

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**Primary Adult Care Transmittal No. 1****March 31, 2006**

TO: All Medical Assistance Providers

FROM: *Susan J. Tucker*
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

RE: New Primary Adult Care Program (PAC)

Beginning **JULY 1, 2006**, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will offer a new Medical Assistance program known as the Primary Adult Care program (PAC). PAC will cover primary care benefits for low-income Maryland residents.

DHMH combined two of its programs – the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program and the Maryland PrimaryCare Program – to create PAC. Between July 1, 2006 and September 1, 2006 recipients in the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program and/or the Maryland PrimaryCare Program will transition to PAC.

PAC will cover individuals age 19 and over who are not eligible for Medicare or full Medicaid benefits. Eligible individuals will also have to meet income and asset requirements. In addition to prescription drug coverage, PAC enrollees will receive primary care benefits, coverage for outpatient mental health services, and some additional services for individuals with diabetes. **PAC will not cover specialty care or inpatient and outpatient hospital care.**

Much like HealthChoice, DHMH is contracting with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to provide primary care and pharmacy benefits to PAC members. PAC members must choose an MCO or they will be assigned to one. The State will pay the MCOs capitated rates. MCOs will contract with primary care providers. Primary care providers wishing to participate in PAC must contract with one or more of the PAC MCOs.

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Some PAC services will be carved-out from MCOs and paid for by DHMH on a fee-for-services basis. Carved-out services include specialty mental health pharmacy, outpatient specialty mental health care, HIV drugs, and all pharmacy in the period prior to MCO enrollment. The PAC enrollee will have a yellow and white Medical Care Program card for the carved-out services. The EVS System will include a message to identify PAC enrollees.